

Among the makers of the kingdom the emirs hold a high rank, as they stand nearest to the throne. Their importance sprang from that naval organisation which was so largely due to their labours, which made the kingdom the strongest naval power of the Western Mediterranean, and without which the sea-towns of Italy could never have been reduced, nor the African empire founded. It is significant and remarkable that of the six leading admirals of the kingdom, namely Eugenius, Christodulus, George, John, Philip, and Matthew of Creon, the first four are Greeks and the fifth a Moslem, These commanders held the highest places in the Curia, they formed part of the Privy Council, and were styled archons *axidfamiliares* in their civil capacity.

The most distinguished of the younger emirs was John, the son of the Admiral Eugenius, He commanded, along with, or under, George, the fleet which forced Amalfi with its dependents of Scala and Ravello into submission in 1131, In 1134 we find him commanding on the* mainland} together with the Chancellor Guorin he entrusted with the government of the Terra di Lavoro, The two did good service

together,
holding the principality of Capua
against Robert
and Rainulf in 1135, and giving time
to the King
to gather fresh forces in Sicily; joining
him when
he came in the besieging of Naples,
After 1136

tance the next year against the Moslems of 8;
of aUiftnei, in Anaarf» ff. Jlf. iii., p, 389 n.